

ADVISORY COMMISSION ON COASTAL WATERS TOWN OF DARIEN

JOHN McDONALD, CHAIRMAN
C. LINCOLN JEWETT, VICE CHAIRMAN
WALTER RALEIGH, SHELLFISH
FRANK KEMP, CLERK
WILLIAM CAVERS
FLIP HUFFARD
ROBERT MONRO
JON SHOUEL
J. PALMER SPARKMAN
MICHAEL WALLACE



Green's Ledge Light

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS
JANE BRANIGAN, PARK & REC COMM.
TOM BELL, HARBOR MASTER
CAPT. GARY PAVIA, POLICE DEPT.

Minutes of April 6, 2011 Meeting

Chairman McDonald called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm in Room 213, Town Hall.

Present were: Chairman McDonald, Commissioners Raleigh, Kemp, Huffard, and Sparkman, as well as Harbor Commissioner Tom Bell. Also attending was Randy Tankoos, Vice Commodore of Noroton Yacht Club.

Absent were: Vice Chairman Jewett, Commissioners Cavers, Monroe, Shoudele, and Wallace.

The minutes of the February 8, 2011 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Chairman's Report

Chairman McDonald distributed copies of the current issue of Sound Health, the newsletter publication of the Long Island Sound Study.

The Commission reviewed a recap of the CT General Assembly Bill No. 6387. It was noted that tracking of the bill can easily be determined at www.cga.ct.gov and enter 6387. The bill, introduced in January 2011, will repeal certain personal property tax exemptions, and change the rates that are applied to boats and aircraft.

The Commission voted, unanimously, to authorize the Chair to prepare a letter to the First Selectman expressing reservations about this legislation, in that it was believed that it would be injurious to recreational boaters and the maritime trades.

The Chairman also distributed sections of the Annual Report of the Long Island Sound Assembly, as presented to the CT General Assembly. These sections discussed:

- open water dredge disposal in LI Sound
- marine law enforcement
- Coastal and harbor management
- Impacts of climate change and sea level rise.

Harbor Master's Report

The Harbor Master reported that the harbor is closed for the season, and that he had spoken with representatives of Noroton Yacht Club concerning plans for harbor management in the coming year.

He reported that he had updated the Board of Selectmen on the following topics:

- the on-line mooring application and management system
- an annual fee of \$ 10 that will cover the software and stickers for the mornings

- application of a registration decal to the base of each mooring
- the requirement for mooring applicants to carry proof of \$300,000 liability insurance, to cover damage to others, as well a boat removal costs, in the event of a stranding or wreck.

The Board of Selectmen approved the prior topics, but did not approve a proposal to define a boating “season,” preferring to place this topic under review by Town Counsel.

Harbor Master Bell reported that it was likely that the Boy Scouts would assist in the recording of locations for the moorings, for use in the new system, via application of the GPS locations for each location.

Shellfish Report

Commissioner Raleigh reported no new issues to be brought to the Commission’s attention.

Review of Town Budget as relates to harbor items

Chairman McDonald distributed a portion of the draft 2011-2012 Selectmen Budget – showing line item # 912905: Darien Harbor Dredging for \$5,300. This amount represents the Commission’s request for funds to perform a preliminary survey of harbor depths. If these funds are approved, the study will be conducted in the summer or fall of 2011. The Board of Finance will be the next point of review for this matter, followed by approval by the RTM in the Town Budget meeting on May 8, 2011.

Flare/Up!/2011

Commissioner Kemp reviewed the plans for the Flare/Up event on May 14 at Weed Beach, and the safety training, scheduled for Wednesday May 11. Members of the Harbor Commission are invited to participate, or bring refreshments. The event is held “rain or shine,” since the “flares don’t care.”

Mooring Specifications

The Commission discussed the issue of enhancing the mooring standards, with a view to increasing the standard for larger boats (say, above 40’) to require the use of chain. In the absence of Commissioner Monro, who has coordinated this effort to date, it was decided to place the item on the agenda for the next meeting, while continuing study of the matter.

Other Business

There was no other business presented for discussion.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm. The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for Wednesday May 4, 2011 in Room 213, Town Hall, 7:30 pm

Respectfully submitted

Frank B. Kemp
Clerk